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Art in Review

'HEADS WITH TAILS'

By KAREN ROSENBERG

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Harris Lieberman
508 West 26th Street, Chelsea
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In one of his early videos the artist William Wegman flips a coin and adjusts his very compliant dog — a Weimaraner named Man Ray — accordingly. Heads, and Man Ray faces the camera; tails, and his hind quarters are on display.

That work, and three other Wegmans of similar vintage and wit, are on view in a diverting late-summer show organized by the fledgling West Street Gallery. The West Street dealers, Alex Gartenfeld and Matt Moravec, have decamped for the occasion to the more spacious Harris Lieberman gallery in Chelsea from Mr. Gartenfeld's West Village apartment.

There, with Mr. Wegman's eager yet deadpan conceptualism in mind, they have assembled a curious selection of contemporary paintings and drawings (and the odd sculpture). Silliness and sobriety trade off; a lumpy plasticine-on-wood Mona Lisa by the Austrian collective Gelitin hangs next to a reserved geometric abstraction by Sebastian Black, while Bianca Beck's vaguely Informel noodlings are next to David Shrigley's drawing of a Gumby-green torso.

In other words, it's an either/or kind of exhibition. Only Mr. Wegman, it seems, is able to show both sides of the coin.

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